

HOUSE BILL 719
By West

AN ACT to name the bathhouse at the Gee Creek
campground in Hiawasse/Ocoee Scenic River
State Park in honor of the late Rob Skinner.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should permanently commemorate the lives of those citizens whose dedicated service to the environment and ecology of this State was tireless and unwavering; and

WHEREAS, Rob Skinner was one such individual, whose determined advocacy for the environment of southeast Tennessee, and indeed that of the entire State, ensured the protection of the sanctity of our lands and waterways; and

WHEREAS, a long-time conservationist, Rob Skinner held a deep appreciation of and love for Tennessee's rivers, streams, and creeks. He was well-known as a knowledgeable, capable, and trustworthy canoe instructor, trip leader, and river adopter; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Skinner was a member of many organizations dedicated to the preservation of the environment; he served as a board member of the Tennessee Scenic River Association (TSRA) for many years, and served as its Secretary in 1989 and its Vice President in 1990. He organized many of the V.I.P. Days during which the TSRA would host an array of state officials; and

WHEREAS, Rob Skinner was the President of the Environmental Action Fund, the first Executive Director of the Cumberland River Compact, and a member of the Governor's Tennessee Scenic Rivers Advisory Committee, and has been named Conservationist of the Year by the Tennessee Conservation League; and

WHEREAS, especially fond of Gee Creek and the Gee Creek campground area, Mr. Skinner, a managing partner in an architectural firm, donated his company's time and expertise

to develop plans for the expansion of the campground bathhouse. His vigorous lobbying of the General Assembly was responsible for this Body's appropriation of the funds needed for the construction of the new facility; and

WHEREAS, Rob Skinner played an important role in the conservation and preservation of Tennessee's ecosystem for many years, and he should be appropriately honored for his unfaltering and determined spirit; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the bathhouse facility located in the Gee Creek campground area of the Hiwassee/Ocoee Scenic River State Park is hereby named in honor of the late Rob Skinner as a lasting tribute to one of the most outstanding citizens this state has produced throughout its history.

SECTION 2. The Commissioner of Environment and Conservation is directed to erect or affix suitable signs designating the bathhouse facility at the Gee Creek campground as the "Rob Skinner Bathhouse".

SECTION 3. This act shall become operative only if the cost of the manufacture and installation of such signs is paid to the Department of Environment and Conservation from non-state funds within one (1) year of the effective date of this act. Such payment shall be made prior to any expenditure by the state for the manufacture or installation of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the person or entity paying for such signs within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, an amount equal to the difference in such costs shall be remitted to the department in non-state funds within thirty (30) days of the sponsoring person or entity receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

SECTION 4. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

